

**CLAIMS**

Therefore, having thus described the invention, at least the following is claimed:

1           1. A combination shipping and dispensing carton for carrying pouches  
2 which can be converted into side-by-side dispensers for dispensing pouches in their  
3 upright position, the carton comprising:

4                 (a) a bottom panel, top panel and foldably attached adjoining side  
5 panels, with each end being closed by a top end flap foldably attached to the top  
6 panel, a side end flap foldably attached to each side panel, a bottom end flap foldably  
7 attached to the bottom panel, with means for securing said flaps in the closed position;  
8 and

9                 (b) said carton having a pair of tear lines extending through a side  
10 panel between the top panel and bottom panel, and a fold line extending in the other  
11 side panel between the bottom panel and top panel, with said fold line and said pair of  
12 tear lines being interconnected so that when said pair of tear lines have been torn  
13 open, the carton can be formed into side-by-side dispensers by folding the fold line in  
14 said other side panel.

1           2. The carton of claim 1 in which the interconnection between said fold  
2 line and said pair of tear lines is at least one tear line.

1           3. The carton of claim 1 in which said pair of tear lines are substantially  
2 parallel to each other.

1           4. The carton of claim 3 in which said pair of tear lines extend a distance  
2 into the bottom panel and converge towards each other and are interconnected to said  
3 fold line by a tear line, and said pair of tear lines converge towards each other in the  
4 top panel and are interconnected to said fold line by a tear line.

1           5. The carton of claim 1 in which said fold line and said pair of tear lines  
2 are located so as to form side-by-side dispensers that are of approximately the same  
3 size and configuration.

1               6.     The carton of claim 1 in which said fold line and said pair of tear lines  
2     and the interconnection between them are each located approximately equidistance  
3     between the two ends of the carton.

1               7.     The carton of claim 1 in which the means for closing said end flaps is  
2     with glue.

1               8.     The carton of claim 1 in which the top panel is formed from two flaps  
2     that are glued together.

1               9.     The carton of claim 1 in which said pair of tear lines in the side panel  
2     diverge away from each other from the top panel towards the bottom panel until each  
3     tear line is close to an end of carton, with said pair of tear lines extending into the  
4     bottom panel where they are at least substantially parallel to each other through at  
5     least most of the bottom panel, with said tear lines forming side-by-side dispensers,  
6     each said dispenser having a front wall and a bottom with the front wall having a low  
7     height from said bottom so that a large portion of any pouch placed near the front wall  
8     is amply displayed and can be easily removed form the dispenser.

1               10.    The carton of claim 9 in which the interconnection between said pair of  
2     tear lines and said fold line is a pair of parallel tear lines in the top panel and the  
3     converging of tear lines in said bottom panel and extending into said other side panel  
4     until they meet said fold line in said other side panel.

11.    The carton of claim 10 which has a starting flap in the other side panel  
for commencing the tearing of said tear lines.

1               12.    The carton of claim 9 in which said fold line and said pair of tear lines  
2     are located so as to form side-by-side dispensers that are of approximately the same  
3     size and configuration.

1               13.    The carton of claim 9 in which the top panel is formed from two flaps  
2     that are glued together.

1           14. The carton of claim 1 in which said fold line extending in the other  
2 side panel is interspersed with cuts so the two dispensers can be separated from each  
3 other.

1           15. A combination shipping and dispensing carton for carrying pouches  
2 which can be converted into side-by-side dispensers for dispensing pouches in their  
3 upright position, the carton comprising:

4                 (a) a bottom panel, top panel and foldably attached adjoining side  
5 panels, with each end being closed by a top end flap foldably attached to the top  
6 panel, a side end flap foldably attached to each side panel, a bottom end flap foldably  
7 attached to the bottom panel, with means for securing said flaps in the closed position;  
8 and

9                 (b) said carton having a pair of tear lines in the side panel that  
10 diverge away from each other from the top panel towards the bottom panel until each  
11 tear line is close to an end of the carton, with said pair of tear lines extending into the  
12 bottom panel where they are at least substantially parallel to each other through at  
13 least most of the bottom panel, and a fold line extending into the other side panel  
14 between the bottom panel and top panel, with said fold line and said pair of tear lines  
15 being interconnected so that when said pair of tear lines have been torn opened, the  
16 carton can be formed into side-by-side dispensers by folding the fold line in said other  
17 side panel, each said dispenser having a front wall and a bottom with a front wall  
18 having a low height from said bottom so that a large portion of any pouch placed near  
19 the front wall is amply displayed and can be easily removed from the dispenser.

1           16. A combination shipping and dispensing carton for carrying pouches  
2 which can be converted into side-by-side dispensers for dispensing pouches in their  
3 upright position, the carton comprising:

4                 (a) a bottom panel, top panel and foldably attached adjoining side  
5 panels, with each end being closed by a top end flap foldably attached to the top  
6 panel, a side end flap foldably attached to each side panel, a bottom end flap foldably  
7 attached to the bottom panel, with means for securing said flaps in the closed position;  
8 and

9                         (b)     said carton having a pair of tear lines extending through a side  
10 panel between the top panel and bottom panel that are substantially parallel to each  
11 other, and a fold line extending in the other side panel between the bottom panel and  
12 top panel, with said pair of tear lines extending a distance into the bottom panel  
13 converging towards each other that are interconnected to said fold line by a tear line,  
14 and said pair of tear lines converge towards each other in the top panel and are  
15 interconnected to said fold line by a tear line.

1                         17.     The carton of claim 4 which has a pair of spaced apertures in the top  
2 panel tearing the carton.

1                         18.     A combination shipping and dispensing carton containing a plurality of  
2 pouches having a length, said pouches containing a product, said carton can be  
3 converted into side-by-side dispensers for dispensing pouches in their upright  
4 position, the carton comprising:

5                         (a)     a bottom panel, top panel and foldably attached adjoining side  
6 panels, with each end being closed by a top end flap foldably attached to the top  
7 panel, a side end flap foldably attached to each side panel, a bottom end flap foldably  
8 attached to the bottom panel, with means for securing said flaps in the closed position;

9                         (b)     said pouches having a top and bottom with the top of the pouch  
10 being less full of product than bottom, with the pouches arranged in two rows with  
11 their bottoms being alternatively adjacent an end of the carton and the tops of the  
12 pouches meeting in the center of the carton and overlapping each other so that the  
13 length between the ends of the carton is from approximately the length of a pouch to  
14 one and half times the length of a pouch carried in the carton; and

15                         (c)     said carton having a pair of tear lines extending through a side  
16 panel between the top panel and bottom panel, and a fold line extending in the other  
17 side panel between the bottom panel and top panel, with said fold line and said pair of  
18 tear lines being interconnected so that when said pair of tear lines have been torn  
19 open, the carton can be formed into side-by-side dispensers by folding the fold line in  
20 said other side panel.

1                         19.     A combination shipping and dispensing carton containing a plurality of  
2 pouches having a length, said pouches containing a product, said carton capable of

3 being converted into side dispensers for dispensing pouches in their upright position,  
4 carton comprising:

5                   (a)     a bottom panel, top panel and foldably attached adjoining side  
6 panels, with each end being closed by a top end flap foldably attached to the top  
7 panel, a side end flap foldably attached to each side panel, a bottom end flap foldably  
8 attached to the bottom panel, with means for securing said flaps in the closed position;

9                   (b)     said pouches having a top and bottom with the top of the pouch  
10 being less full of product than bottom, with the pouches arranged in two rows with  
11 their bottoms being alternatively adjacent an end of the carton and the tops of the  
12 pouches meeting in the center of the carton and overlapping each other so that the  
13 length between the ends of the carton is from the approximately the length of a pouch  
14 to one and one half times the length of a pouch carried in the carton; and

15                   (c)     said carton having a pair of tear lines in the side panel that  
16 diverge away from each other from the top panel towards the bottom panel until each  
17 tear line is close to an end of the carton, with said pair of tear lines extending into the  
18 bottom panel where they are at least substantially parallel to each other through at  
19 least most of the bottom panel, and a fold line extending into the other side panel  
20 between the bottom panel and top panel, with said fold line and said pair of tear lines  
21 being interconnected so that when said pair of tear lines have been torn opened, the  
22 carton can be formed into side-by-side dispensers by folding the fold line in said other  
23 side panel, each said dispenser having a front wall and a bottom with a front wall  
24 having a low height from said bottom so that a large portion of any pouch placed near  
25 the front wall is amply displayed and can be easily removed from the dispenser.

1                   20.     A combination shipping and dispensing carton containing a plurality of  
2 pouches having the length, said pouches containing a product, said carton being  
3 capable of being converted into side-by-side dispensers for dispensing pouches in  
4 their upright position carton comprising;

5                   (a)     a bottom panel, top panel and foldably attached adjoining side  
6 panels, with each end being closed by a top end flap foldably attached to the top  
7 panel, a side end flap foldably attached to each side panel, a bottom end flap foldably  
8 attached to the bottom panel, with means for securing said flaps in the closed position;

9                   (b)     said pouches having a top and bottom with the top of the pouch  
10 being less full of product than bottom, with the pouches arranged in two rows with

11       their bottoms being alternatively adjacent an end of the carton and the tops of the  
12       pouches meeting in the center of the carton and overlapping each other so that the  
13       length between the ends of the carton is from approximately the length of a pouch to  
14       one and half times the length of a pouch carried in the carton; and

15                 (c)        said carton having a pair of tear lines extending through a side  
16       panel between the top panel and bottom panel that are substantially parallel to each  
17       other, and a fold line extending in the other side panel between the bottom panel and  
18       top panel, with said pair of tear lines extending a distance into the bottom panel  
19       converging towards each other that are interconnected to said fold line by a tear line,  
20       and said pair of tear lines converge towards each other in the top panel and are  
21       interconnected to said fold line by a tear line.